The Bulletin

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Greensburg, Indiana

Volume 8, Issue 1

March 2003

"First the artist creates; then the art does."

--- Anonymous

History of The Tree City Gallery

By Sue Spillman Magargle

In the 40's, 50's and early 60's there were four known artists in Greensburg making part of their living (if not all) with art. They were: Carrie Page (now Morrison), Harold Hancock, Smiley Fowler, and John Ford. All except Page did sign work along with their art. Carrie was studying and teaching classes in Greensburg. There probably were others painting at that time, only not as well known.

In 1965 the art club was formed at the extension office, where Carrie was giving lessons and most of the first meetings were comprised of her students. The name Community Artists was voted in, so that anyone in this area might be a member and they need not be an artist. Merna Brodie was the first president. Our reasons for an art club was to study, promote, and cultivate art.

After a few meetings at the extension office, Cecil Lawson (an original member) arranged for the club to meet in the Red Cross office in the K.P. Building on Broadway street. Cecil Lawson had some experience with ceramics. The club designed and made ceramic mugs with the Courthouse Tower on them. That continued until the sales slowed and the members grew tired of working on them.

It was amazing how a good group of unselfish members, working and studying together could grow and improve art so much in Decatur County. The group took many trips to Nashville to take lessons and study oil painting. Some teachers were Dwight Steininger, Kay Pool, Dorothy Frantz (from Chicago), George Cherpou (from Connecticut), Adalie Wendall, and others. The quality of paintings are much improved since the club started.

Since 1971 the former Broadway Market at 515 North Broadway has been the home of the Community Artists, now called the Tree City Gallery. After purchasing the building, members worked hard at making money to begin the gallery. There were rummage sales, craft bazaars, bake sales, special shows and exhibits. Through the hard work of many dedicated members, the debt on the building was paid.

We have offered many lessons in the past and continue to do so. We have had visiting artists from various places come for workshops. Others teaching in the past were Harry Kirschner, Carrie Morrison, Betty Blake, Jim Spillman and myself. My father, Jim Spillman,

has been a driving force in keeping the gallery going. His paintings can be seen in many offices and homes around town.

At one time, we had over 50 members. Now there are 25 to 30, with about 12 artists displaying and the rest supporting the arts.

We have around 100 pieces of art on display along with photography, fine crafts, and ceramics. We offer drawing and painting classes in oil, watercolor and

acrylic during the year.

Two of our members are art teachers in the city school system. Margaret Parker has taught drawing and painting, and will again offer those lessons this summer. Judy Glore, now retired from school teaching, will provide watercolor lessons.

Several members have retired from painting now, but still display their artwork. Some members have won awards at the county fair and at shows in surrounding areas. We have had one-man exhibits, special shows and children or student shows.

As a money making project, for the last 8 years, we have made a calendar to sell. In the past pen and ink drawings depicted county scenes. This year, we used copies of paintings to include more of our members artwork.

We have hosted the yearly Hoosier Salon Traveling Exhibit for the past eight years. This is quite an honor and gives the community the chance to see some of the best artwork from the state. Locally the Arts & Cultural Council has been meeting at the Gallery for monthly meetings.

(Article is continued on page 7)

From the Editor.....by George Granholt

As the United States is currently involved in a number of vital situations which will no doubt make interesting, and perhaps disturbing, history for an indeterminate number of generations, I am reminded of a statement by the 18th century English poet, William Blake, who said, "Nations are destroyed or flourish in proportions as their poetry, painting, and music are destroyed or flourish."

Certainly the current international situation requires intense concern, but this is no time to lose sight of the arts which define the "better nature" of a nation's people. Perhaps we need to consider that the preservation of a political heritage also entails the preservation of a cultural heritage. As Americans, we cannot afford to allow either heritage to be degraded.

As you noticed on the previous page, the feature article in this issue of The Bulletin is by Sue Spillman Magargle. Sue, whose father is Jim Spillman, carries on the family tradition of artistic ability. Many of you are familiar with Mr. Spillman's works which may be found in several locations throughout Decatur County.

Because of her long-time affiliation with the Tree City Gallery on north Broadway in Greensburg, Sue was asked to write a history of the Tree City Artist's Association and the Gallery, both of which have contributed immeasurably to the arts in Decatur County.



Kudos to David Miers, Society vice president, for his election to the Purdue University Reserve Officers' Training Hall Corps of Fame. The ROTC Hall of Fame includes distinguished graduates from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC programs. It was established in 1974 to exemplify those attributes of leadership, integrity, moral courage and self discipline which the program develops. Service to the nation, to the community and outstanding leadership in the fields of business, government, education or other professional fields are used as the basis for selection. One hundred and thirty-seven former Purdue ROTC students are members.

As well as his many local roles of leadership, Miers was Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture under Governor Evan Bayh and a past Chairman of the Indiana State Fair Commission. He was also recently honored with Purdue University's Distinguished Agriculture Alumnus Award by Purdue's School of Agriculture.

President's Letter by Diana Springmier



The Society is taking advantage of the Indiana Historical Society's project to microfilm all newspapers published before 1920 that have never been filmed. At no cost to the local organization, a copy of the film will be given to the local organization. Russell Wilhoit is in the process of making an inventory of the locations of original Decatur County newspapers which are available in the Recorder's Office, the HSDC Museum, and the Public Library.

Included in the 2003 Society budget is money allotted for this archival microfilming project. The \$400 budget item will be for the purchase of Decatur County microfilms that the local library doesn't have which are available for sale from the IHS. The films will be donated the library by the Society. The filming process requires the bound newspapers to be unbound and they will be returned in that state. The Decatur County Recorder has agreed to pay for rebinding of these newspapers. Paperwork for the process will be received from the IHS by Ruth Dorrel.

As the museum is closed for the winter, there will be no Museum News column. However, bids are being taken to replace the museum's corroded water pipes, which are presently incapable of carrying enough water pressure through a hose to water the gardens! The new copper pipes will be a good investment in the future operation and maintenance of the museum. This budgeted item is listed in the 2003 Financial Report under Capital Improvements.

Retiring from the HSDC Board are Charity Mitchell, who has served two terms as Recording Secretary and Helen Hamilton, a representative from the museum. Charity will continue archival research at the museum and chair the program committee. Helen, chairman of the museum's volunteers and co-chair of the display committee, will retain these positions. The Board appreciates the many hours of volunteer time given by these two dedicated Society members.

Phyllis Doerflinger, Society member, will be serving as the Board's Recording Secretary, and reed schuster will be filling the remaining Board opening. Schuster is chairing the 5th Sunday Classical Musicale Series.

Notice has been received that Ruth Dorrel has been reappointed to serve another term as the Decatur County Historian. The Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau developed the County Historian Program to foster communication among the multitude of historical groups throughout the state.

The Society's 2002 Christmas ornament featuring the 1922 Decatur County Memorial Hospital earned a profit of \$1,000. Tony Owens once again ably chaired this project.

As your Society Board begins its 2003 term of service, each volunteer member's purpose is to serve its members wisely and encourage the growth of the Society. Please feel free to approach your Board with any concerns or ideas you may have for the betterment of the Society.

As this time, it is worth repeating your Society's purpose as stated in the Articles of Incorporation on file with the Indiana State Secretary of State.

"The general purpose shall be to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the heritage of Decatur County, Indiana, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding an appreciation of Decatur County's history, art, and natural environment by all."

Historical Society Of Decatur County Events Calendar – 2003

March

31 - Fifth Sunday Musicals, Historical Society Museum, 2:30 p.m.

April

- 5 Museum opens for the year. Open every Saturday & Sunday, 1 4 p.m.
- 14 Lecture/Reenactment, Susan Walters on Women and Children in the American Civil War, Greensburg-Decatur County Public Library, 7 p.m.

May

- Fourth Grade Visits to Museum
- 6-8 Fourth Grade Visits to Museum
- 13-15- Fourth Grade Visits to Museum

Exhibit: "Sons of Indiana" Traveling Exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society The exhibit is a presentation of famous Indiana politicians who became prominent nationally. Their campaign buttons and other memorabilia will be on display in the upstairs Decatur County History Rooms.

31 — Memorial Day Exhibit

June 1-July 31

Toys from the 19th century through the 1950's Anyone wishing to contribute objects for display for the exhibit, please contact Ginny Garvey (663-2132) or Helen Hamilton (663-8323)

June

29 - Fifth Sunday Musicals, Historical Society Museum, 7:30 p.m.

August

- Lecture on Covered Bridges, Bob Conwell's home, 507 E. Main, Westport Home made ice cream will be served after the lecture.
- 15 Decatur Co. Sports History Exhibit including clothing, sports equipment, photographs, etc. Anyone wishing to contribute objects for display for the exhibit, please contact Ginny Garvey (663-2132) or Helen Hamilton (663-8323). Exhibit runs through November
- 31 Fifth Sunday Musicals, Historical Society Museum, 2:30 p.m.

September

 - "This Train is Bound for Glory" the story of Chapel Cars, a Part of American Railroad History, Lecture/Slide presentation by Wilma and Norman Taylor, Greensburg/Decatur County Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

November

30 - Fifth Sunday Musicals, Historical Society Museum, 2:30 p.m.

December

Christmas Exhibit Christmas Tea

All events and topics are subject to change.

The Historical Society of Decatur County Invites you to

Jefth Sunday Musicul

General admission for all concerts is by donation.

Reserved seating (Patron) tickets are available for purchase at the Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce after February 17. Patron tickets for all four musicals are \$22 each until March 20, at which time they will be \$25. A limited number of Patron seats are available.

Advance tickets for general admission to the first musical are also available at the Chamber of Commerce. Limit 4 per person, please.

For more information, contact Helen Hamilton at (812) 663-8323



March 30, 2003 2:30 p.m.

Decatur County Museum — 222 N. Franklin Street

Program includes "Flute & Harp Concerto" by Mozart Pat Hicks, harp and Jane Links, flute Sponsored by The Greensburg Daily News

June 29, 2003 2:30 p.m.

Decatur County Museum lawn
Program includes "Carnival of the Animals" by
Camille Saint Saens
Pat Hicks, harpsichord, Kathryn Wilson, violin and
narrated by Mayor Gary Bailey
Bring your own chair.

August 31, 2003 7:30 p.m.

Decatur County Museum lawn
"A Touch of John Phillip Sousa"
The Greensburg Junior High School Brass
ensemble directed by Nick Purcell
Bring your own lawn chair. Lemonade & popcorn
will be served to all!

November 30, 2003 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
"Seasonal Sounds"
Nancy Porter, classical guitar and friends
Church is located at 202 N. Franklin Street

Meet the artists and enjoy refreshments after each performance.

We hope you had the chance to see the fabulous program at the recent 2003 Annual Dinner. If you missed it, video editor (and Society Board member) Tom Barker gave a "behind-the-scenes" look at the work involved in the transfer of the 1937 film of Greensburg. Here's your chance to own the video! Simply fill out the form below & mail it back, or stop by the Chamber of Commerce on North Lincoln Street in Greensburg to purchase a copy.



The Historical Society of Decatur County Video Order Form I would like to order the following "Greensburg 1937" videos:

VHS copies @ \$15.	00 each sub-total \$	
DVD copies @ \$30.	.00 each sub-total \$	
Shipp	ing & Handling \$ 5.00	-

Total Amount Enclosed --- \$

Name			
Address			
City	State	ZIP	

Please send check or money order payable to Historical Society of Decatur County to:



Tom Barker Video 4417 W. 310 North Greensburg IN 47240 (812) 663-2381

Tree City Gallery . . . Continued from page one

We are a non-profit organization. Dues are \$20 for family memberships, which allows the artist to display artwork and sell it.

Members may also buy supplies at a small discount. We also offer \$15 supporting memberships, for those who enjoy art.

Student memberships are \$5. The Gallery also has a variety of supplies, canvas and picture frames.

Presently on display are artworks from John Bedel, Dottie Seals, Anna Bass, Irene Wolfe, Lee Ritter, Judy Glore, Margaret Parker, Bill Prange, Carrie Morrison, Joannie Darby, Marianne Harrington, Jim Spillman, and Sue Spillman Magarge. Dallas Whipple is displaying his photography. Also displayed are woven rugs by Peachie Wells and ceramics by Jim Spillman.

We have a fresh new look at the Gallery, as the interior has just been painted. A grant was received from the Decatur County Community Foundation that helped with the redecorating. Special shows are scheduled monthly. Recently, a student artwork show featuring students from Greensburg and St. Mary's was held. In March, we will have a past and retired members show. In April, part of our display will feature basket weaving and a demonstration.

The Gallery is open on Thursday and Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment — groups are welcome. Call the Gallery at 663-2850 or Sue Magargel at 663-6134 for an appointment or to find out about upcoming shows or lessons.

As a non-profit organization, we gladly accept donations. Also, a variety of artworks, including oil paintings, watercolors, acrylic, pen and ink and pastels are for sale.

Wish You Were There?....(with today's salary!) Representative Consumer Costs in the early 1950's:

Grocery Prices:

Bread . . . 15 cents
Campbell's Soup . . . 10 center per can
Coffee . . . 99 cents per pound
Ground beef . . . 34 cents per dozen

Eggs...51 cents per dozen Milk...92 cents for one gallon Ivory soap...27 cents per 2 bars

Other costs:

Two story home with basement . . . \$22,000 to \$25,000 (national average prices)

** A worker earning only \$50 to \$100 per week could buy a two bedroom, living room, kitchen and bath home of approximately 1000 square feet for \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Medium priced car (example: a Packard) . . . \$2,000 to \$2,500

Car battery ... \$11

Gasoline . . . 23 cents per gallon

First class postage stamp ... 3 cents

Mortgage rates . . . 3.25% (at this point, 30 year mortgages were now allowed)

Dress . . . \$7.98 to \$25

Kelvinator refrigerator . . . \$250 to \$300

Emerson television . . . \$129.95 (10 cents a day on payments)

	S OCA I AIII IN NAMA BULNOOT
L	Wish you were there? Looking back at the 1950's
L	Caradt araw may daiW
9	oəbiV 7891
	Rusical Series
	Calendar & Fifth Sunday
S 'Þ	FOOS ytaisod lositotsiH
	улгепш уемг
2, 3	ban taebizery ent mor7
	Gallery
	A Look at the Tree City Art

Presorted Standard U.S. Postage Paic Greensburg, IN Permit #80

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

Society's Officers

President: Vice President: Recording Secretary:

Corresponding Secretary:
Membership Secretary:

Treasurer:

Diana Springmier David Miers Phyllis Doerflinger Terri-Ann Blanton Rheadawn Metz

Board of Directors

Kathryn Bailey Tom Barker Ed Deiwert

Ginny Garvey reed schuster Russell Wilhoit

Debbie Griewe

Society's Agent

William H. Robbins

Museum Director

Diana Springmier

Editors of Bulletin

George Granholt

Email: ggran00@voyager.net

John Pratt

Email: room2222222@yahoo.com

County Historian

Ruth Dorrel, 407 N. Webster

St. Paul, IN 47272

Email: rdorrel@shelbynet.net

County Genealogists

Irene Kreiger, 23184 Pocket Rd. Batesville, IN 47006 Email: ikrieger@seidata.com

Russell Wilhoit, 328 N. Jackson, Greensburg, IN 47240 Email: rwilhoit@hsonline.net

The Bulletin

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Greensburg, Indiana

Volume 8, Issue 2

June 2003

"Only the educated are free."
-Epictetus

School Days, School Days Dear Old Golden Rule Days

Ah...the good old (School) days! I'm talking about the schools that were **really** schools-with rigid curriculum and discipline to match!. Those of us who attended grade school in the 1930's and '40's probably trudged, bicycled, or rode a school bus to an educational institution that was very similar to others no matter where we lived.

The building was a two-story brick, probably built before 1900, with a wide staircase at each end-one for going up and one for

coming down. Woe to the student who went up the down staircase! The floors were oil-stained wood, definitely not fire proof, and the ceilings in the rooms were often 12 feet high. Of course there was no air conditioning, but each classroom had an outside wall with several windows which could actually be opened when it was

really hot. Speaking of hot, the building was steamheated, with radiators that were not controlled by a thermostat but by a custodian who, when he had a chance, either stoked or banked the boiler located deep in the stygian regions where students were not allowed. Of course those **men** teachers who smoked gravitated there when the nicotine urge hit, but the place remained one of mystery to the students.

The classrooms were spartan, with one or more slate blackboards and rows of fixed desks, supposedly sized for the age of the student, at which the students were expected to sit rigidly upright, eyes to the front, and both feet on the floor...no slouching allowed. The top of each desk could be lifted up to reveal space for textbooks and the other accouterments of learning. The space also served as a convenient wastebasket, which was usually emptied on Friday afternoons.

A feature of these desks was also the inkwell placed in the upper right hand corner, since the students were expected to be right-handed, where the bottle of black ink for handwriting

practice was stored.. Is a digression allowed? Remember how you left-handed students had to contort yourselves in order to get the proper slant on the letters? Of course only the older students were allowed to use ink, but for the purpose of standardization, all the desks had inkwells anyway. Each desk had a fold-up seat which served the student sitting in front. So, when a desk was not in a row, it looked like the seat

was on the wrong end.

The teacher's desk was usually placed at the front of the classroom, but occasionally the more daring instructors moved their desks to the back. This locale had one major advantage-the teacher could see the students but, if eyes were to the front, the students could not see the

teacher. There were perhaps other advantages, but the teacher never revealed them.

These days were filled with wonder and opportunity, but we didn't realize it at the time. Our teachers were dedicated and patient, but we probably didn't appreciate it at the time. Our friendships began and lasted...or they ended much too soon. There wasn't a lot of innovation, but there was a great deal of imagination. We began our school years in innocence and ended them with experience.

Let's reminisce. When you attend the summer meeting of the Historical Society in August, bring with you a story from your early school days to incorporate in the September and successive issues of the Bulletin in 2003-2004.

Here's your chance to be heard again... and to relive those events half a century later. Let's set the record straight!

President's Letter by Diana Springmier



In the March 2003 Bulletin was included a full sheet of activities for the 2003 events year and also a full page inviting you to the Fifth Sunday Musicals. On April 14th, a program presented by Susan Walters and her two children on Women and Children in the American Civil War, a colorful lecture/reenactment, was held at the library. Unfortunately, only seven attended, including Nancy and Russell Wilhoit in their authentic Civil War dress. The Board has learned a lesson: we must well publicize our programs. With our increased effort, we hope you will support our future programs which are free and open to the community.

The Westport Covered Bridge Renovation/ Preservation Committee is busy planning fund raising activities toward restoring Decatur County's only covered bridge. The total cost of the project is \$450,000 of which the DCHS aift of \$10,000 is the largest local donation. A golf tournament is planned for May in Letts, the June 6-8 Covered Bridge Festival in Westport with meals daily in the local community building and a parade among many other activities will be offered, and a concert by The Blackwoods on July 22nd at the Community Church is planned. At this time \$32,000 remains to be raised with the target date for the completion of the fundraiser in July 2003 and dedication of the bridge in August 2004.

Speaking of August, a reminder that this coming August 3rd will be our next Society program and ice cream social. The program will be at the Covered Bridge in Westport, followed by the homemade ice cream at the home of Bob and Jean Conwell on East Main Street. This will be a special Sunday afternoon so mark it now on your calendar.

The Society has awarded the bid to replace the museum's corroded water pipes to David Geis for \$2,000. The next Fifth Sunday Musical on the lawn will determine when this work will be

completed. The museum's porch floor will need to be replaced. Work was done last fall on the worst area so the museum could be accessible but will be completed this summer.

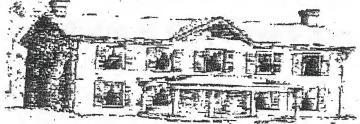
The Greensburg 1937 video and DVD is on sale at the Chamber of Commerce on North Lincoln Street.

Susan Blanton will fill out her sister Terri-Ann's term on the Board as Corresponding Secretary while Terri-Ann will continue to work on the layout of the Bulletin. reed Schuster will assist with publicity.

The North Decatur Elementary Little Hoosiers has generously donated their school year fund raiser bank balance to the museum. Their donation two years ago enabled the museum to add a cherry nightstand and washbowl and pitcher next to the four poster bed in the upstairs bedroom. Russell Wilhoit, representing the Board, accepted a check for \$500 May 9 at the students' meeting in the North Decatur Cafeteria. Beth Craig and Judy Sanders do an outstanding job, awakening a love of history in their students. This group of young people has been supporting the restoration of the Shiloh Cemetery.

"...this coming
August 3rd will be
our next Society
program and ice
cream social...."

Museum News



by Diana Springmier Museum Director

diwing by John School

The museum opened the 2003 season with the first of the Fifth Sunday Musicals the last of March. The Society, under the direction of reed Schuster (Events Planner and Board Member) hosted fifty-eight guests and patrons in the north and south parlors. The program of classical music was a delightful way to spend an end-of-winter Sunday afternoon with Pat Hicks, harpist, and Jane Links, flutist. Society member, Jane Brown, made and donated all of the refreshments which included appropriately iced musical note cookies.

The fourth grade students from Greensburg's Washington and St. Mary's Schools and North Decatur Elementary School toured the museum and garage on the annual spring field trips. The 1915 player piano, donated last summer, was a hit with the DVD-headset generation and generated many questions of life in the early 20th Century when the museum was built.

Also of interest through May in the upstairs history rooms was the "Sons of Indiana" Traveling Exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society. The exhibit was a presentation of famous Indiana politicians who became prominent nationally

along with their campaign buttons and other memorabilia.

The June through July display will be children's toys from the 19th Century through the 1950's. If you are cleaning closets and uncover grandfather's toy box (or yours), call Ginny Garvey at 663-2132 or Helen Hamilton at 663-8323. You can share your family history with the community for a couple of months.

Again the museum will have an open house the 4th of July after the Parade and serve lemonade on the lawn for guests. The toys will be on view in the house so bring your children and grandchildren and soak up many a youngster's past.

If you are aware of one who has a couple of extra hours and would like to volunteer during the Saturday and Sunday 1-4 o'clock museum opening hours, call volunteer chair, Helen Hamilton at 663-8323. The museum is open for groups or individuals by private appointment. Call 812-663-2997 to schedule.

Now That's An Invitation You Can't Refuse...

From the August 4, 1812 Greensburg newspaper:

GREENSBRURG HIGH SCHOOL — Will again be opened for the reception of pupils, on Monday, the 8th of August, 1812. The Principals, having procured the assistance of Mr. James H. Brown, are prepared to receive as many children, as may be entrusted to their care.

Per Quarter, Tuition Costs:

Spelling & Reading — \$2.50 English, Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic & Algebra — \$3.00

Natural, Mental & Moral Philosophy of Natural History & Physiology — \$4.00 Latin, Greek & Mathematics — \$5.00

A Brief History of Early Education

James Russell Lowell wrote of education in his essay, *New England Two Centuries Ago*. "It was in making education not only common to all, but in some sense compulsory on all, that the destiny of the free republics (the states) of America was practically settled." Thus, the pattern for an educational opportunity for all was set early in our history.

James Bryant Conant, at the time president of Harvard University, took this opportunity for an education a step further when he proposed what the purpose for this opportunity should be: "our purpose (for education) is to cultivate in the largest number of our future citizens an appreciation of both the responsibilities and the benefits which come to them because they are Americans and are free."

The Land Ordinance of 1785 which concerned the territory from which Indiana was made a state, established a means of surveying townships into 36 sections, each of which would contain 640 acres. In each township, the revenue from section 16 would be used to support a school. Thus the practice of having township schools in Indiana was established. Every township in Decatur County supported schools, perhaps as many as ten or more, because the means of financing schools through taxation at the local level became a reality. Eighty-six years later, the Indiana Constitution of 1851 affirmed that the support of education should also be assumed by the state. Section 1 of Article 8 states:

Knowledge and learning, generally diffused throughout a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government...the General Assembly (shall) encourage... a general and uniform system of Common Schools, where-in tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all.

The history of education in Decatur County in the latter half of the 19th century and the first decade and a half of the 20th can be found in two reprints authorized by our Historical Society: The Atlas of Decatur County, published in 1882 and reprinted in 1976, and Harding's History of Decatur County, published in 1915 and reprinted in 1986. A third excellent source of information is Lorene Shirk's fact-filled treatise on Decatur County schools from 1820-

1978. This publication for the Rural Couples Club as a bicentennial project contains copious illustrations, both photographs and drawings of most of the past and present schools in Decatur County. If you're not familiar with these publications, you will find a wealth of information not only about the schools in the county but about other institutions, and individuals, as well. Because these works cover early county education so thoroughly, there is no need to attempt even a digest of the information. However, some general observations about the early schools can be made.

The term, "common school," was used to designate a publicly financed school from privately funded academies. These common schools were intended to provide the students attending them a firm grounding in the three "r's". Additionally, language classes in Greek and Latin were offered and, in the case of Decatur County, German was offered in several school districts in deference to the large German population located here. There evidently was a concern for history and geography as well, since the point is made that many of the schools were equipped with globes - an extravagant but important teaching tool. Spelling was, of course, emphasized, and "spelling bees" became immensely popular. Memorization was especially valued, and calligraphy, not

(story continued on next page.)

keyboarding, was a staple of the school day.

"... the school year was arranged to accommodate farm families."

History of Early Education, continued

Common textbooks in use 125 years ago included the American Primer, McGuffey's Readers, Webster's Spelling Book, Guthrie's Arithmetic, the English Reader, and the Bible. Moral instruction was considered a basic feature of the curriculum, and such works as Parson Weem's apotheosis of George Washington, which contains the cherry tree story, were standard reading.

Teacher preparation was not considered too important in the early schools, since an applicant who "could read a little and write a little" might receive serious consideration to "assume the ferule". The schools in Decatur County, however, were fortunate in having many excellent teachers who used innovative (usually based on common sense) techniques to aid students in learning their lessons.

Since agricultural interests were paramount in Decatur County in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the school year was

arranged to accommodate farm families. The earliest schools were open only three months of the year, but gradually the time was lengthened to the traditional nine months. Still, school didn't start until September and was usually over by the middle of May.

The system of township schools in Indiana served as a successful transition to the modern consolidated school systems we support today. The physical boundaries and facilities have changed, have assumed more complexity and sophistication, and are attuned to the demands of the 21st century. Still, the basic premise remains that the school system is supported by the people and, in turn, provides the intellectual stimulus that is the enabling factor of change and, we hope, social, economic, and political advancement.

The late Lorene Shirk's study of Decatur County schools from 1820-1978 was compiled as a bicentennial year project of the Decatur County Rural Couples Club.

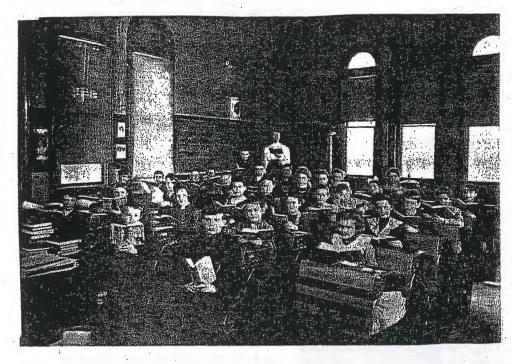
Many of you may have a copy at home and, if so, you know how fact-filled and interesting the study is. If you are not familiar with Mrs. Shirk's research, you may want to look over the copy owned by our Historical Society. The book may be reviewed at the museum during operating hours (Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.) There is also a copy at the public library (Indiana Room), but this book has been misused and needs to be replaced.

Mrs. Shirk's research includes a brief history of Decatur County schools, references to prominent individuals in our county's educational history, faculty lists of Decatur County schools, and copious illustrations throughout the text. There is an apology for any omissions or errors, but if any exist they are minimal and could be easily corrected with a little help from interested readers.

While the book is a valuable research tool, it is also guaranteed to bring back some good old memories. Get to know Lorene's **Schools in Decatur County**. You'll be glad you made the acquaintance.

A Look Back at Decatur County's School's

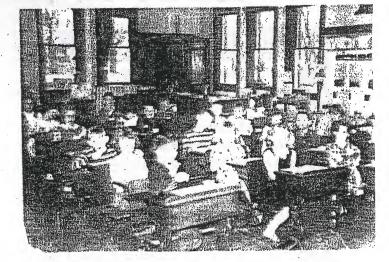
Photos from "Schools in Decatur County" by Lorene Shirk

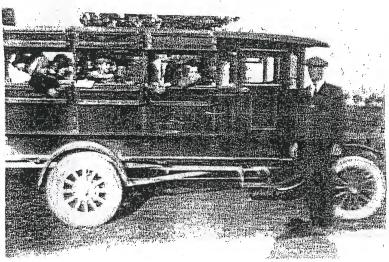


About 1950

1906

East School, Greensburg Washington Township 505 East Central Avenue





Adams School Hack, Earl Platt, Driver

SOCIETY MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION TO INDIANA RURAL HISTORY



Decatur County Historian and Society member, Ruth Dorrel, and three of the employees of the Indiana Historical Society have edited the recently published book, <u>Centennial Farms of Indiana.</u> Seventynine pages of Ruth's indexing include original owners, county, date entered, descendant and relationship, and separate indexes to descendants and counties.

Ruth has worked at the Indiana Historical Society as editor of the Hoosier Genealogist until retiring and is now the office manager and genealogist for the Society of Indiana Pioneers, is on the board for Friends of the Indiana State Archives and presently co-editing the third volume of "Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indian.

According to Ruth, there are thirty-three farms in the book from Decatur County, the oldest in the county entered in 1820. The book is in the local library and in the museum.



The second Fifth Sunday Musical, sponsored by the Decatur County Historical Society, will take place on the lawn at the museum, 222 North Franklin Street, Greensburg.

Featured will be Pat Hicks on the harpsichord and violinist, Kathryn Wilson. Mayor Gary Bailey will narrate the "Carnival of the Animals," an 1886 musical, originally written for and to be performed by animals. Refreshments will be served and guests may meet the artists afterwards.

Admission is free, and in the even of inclement weather, the program will take place at the First Presbyterian Church, 202 North Franklin Street. One does need a ticket which is available at the Chamber of Commerce, 1201 North Lincoln Street, Greensburg. For additional information, call Helen Hamilton at 663-8323.

Celebrate the Greensburg High School Class of '53's Fifty Year Anniversary

Class Will

We, the class of '53 being of sound mind and body, leave this as our last will and testament:

Jackie Adams leaves her natural blonde hair to Wanda Wells. Alice Marie Baker leaves the fourth period study hall to Mr. Mendenhall who will have to take care of it all by himself next year. Dixie Banister leaves her unsolved love problems to anyone who is shrewd enough to untangle them. Wilouise Barnes wills her five years in high school to anyone who thinks they can "brace" them. Doris Binder bequeaths her ability to get a certain St. Paul boy to Nancy Marlin. Marie Blankman wills her glasses to Mr. Moeller who had his damaged at the Regional.

Shirley Bramblett leaves her Southern hospitality to Miss Cuff to carry on. Don Buell bequeaths his athletic ability to Bill Reddish. Luella Burkhart wills that "certain nickname" to anyone to whom it might apply more appropriately. Norma Jean Butz leaves her vigorous enthusiasm at the Shelbyville basketball games to Kathryn Cornn. Ray Clark leaves Dale "Monkey" Zapfe for Mr. Knauth to move around in his Economics class. Jim Cuskaden wills all of his excuses for absences to Mr. Davis.

Coreen Dilkes bequeaths her good times in Economics class to Mr. Sherfey's typing classes. Noreen Dilkes leaves her tall, slim figure to Joe Stagge. Dennis Doerflinger wills his Model "T" to Don Whipple because it suits his style. John Doerflinger leaves his car to Jim Powner in exchange for his bicycle. David Doles wills his proficiency at sign languages to next year's Physics class with which to devil Mr. Knauth. Jean Duffey leaves some of her height to Ronnie McKibban.

Don Eubank bequeaths to Mr. Moeller a bottle of Wild Root hair oil. Betty Evans leaves her typing ability to Judy Scheidler. Huey Fassold wills his quiet nature to Jack Baldwin. Betty Ford leaves her sewing ability to Jim Huber. Mary Gidley wills her behavior in fourth period study hall to Clara Ponsler. Grace Hellmich leaves for St. Paul.

Bill Hellmich leaves for Cobb's Fork to see some "Mann." Fred Holtzlider wills his desire for speed to Kenneth Parker. Bob Hurt bequeaths his beautiful red hair to Joyce McLaughlin. Lois Huston leaves her fickleness to David Hanna. Ermil Johnston wills his hideous laugh to Emily Sue York. Juliann Kessler leaves Mr. Sherfey to next year's unlucky pupils. Shirley Konzelman leaves her vim and vigor on the stage during the ball games to Jo Pearson.

Jim Koors bequeaths Mrs. Webster, his pet peeve, to Carl "Ears" Bode. Don Kutchback leaves, isn't that enough? Paula Levenstein wills the words "dynamite comes in small packages" to anyone who thinks they can handle them. Bill Loechle leaves his street cleaning detail to Darrell McCardle, who should have been a part of it. John Martin leaves his truck to Jim Wilmer. Marilyn Miller bequeaths Miss Cuff to Sheldon Abbott.

Marlene Montgomery wills her daily attendance record to Don Meyer. Lyndall Myers bequeaths his five-place logarithm tables to Jack Spencer. Gene McCoy leaves his horn blowing ability and "love" for inconsistent drivers to Don Whipple. Buarl McGuire wills his crew cut to Mr. Knauth. Don McGuire leaves his ability to get along with Mr. Sherfey to Carl Harrison. Ruth McLaughlin bequeaths her ability to skip school without getting caught to Dot Miller.

Shirley Nelson leaves her love for athletes to Rita Luken. Annette Oak takes the hint and leaves so Ellen Callaghan and Jackie Barron won't have to sing the "Song of Farewell" to her anymore. Curtis O'Brien wills his ability to smoke cigars to Jack Spencer and Murray Mendenhall. Robert Phillips leaves his collection of pin-up girls to Mr. Gossett. Dan Rawlins bequeaths his cautious driving to Jerry Lee. Nancy Reiger unwillingly leaves her three periods with Mr. Knauth to some starry-eyed junior girl.

George Richards leaves to join the United States Navy. Lois Ricke leaves to join in the marriage vows with her "one and only." Don Rudolf bequeaths his profiteering ways to Mr. Sherfey. Jim Ryle leaves his "love" for cats to Carol Seifker. Margaret Sahm leaves her nickname "Maggie" to Mr. Sherfey. Mary Ann Scheidler leaves by train, plane, or on foot to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

Hazel Schilling wills her name "Hayseed" to Carol Williams. Roger Shoemake bequeaths to Mr. Spencer his "smoke" house on wheels in hopes he will use it instead of his car after the games. Jo Ann Smith leaves her short legs to Wendell Roseberry. Dot Stahl leaves her "criminal" record to Dian Elder. Ann Stier leaves her theme song to Merrilyn Thornburg for conviction purposes. Dick Stier leaves his love for mathematics to Larry Pohlman and Joe Westhafer.

Jane Stout leaves her musical ability to Buddy Ryle. Elmer Swisher wills his "naturally" curly hair to Mr. Ward. Marie Stoneking bequeaths her three periods with Mr. Sherfey to anyone who wants them. Don Volles leaves his nickname "Snoz" to Joe Buell. Mary Sue Weisner wills her position as teacher's pet in trigonometry to any girl brave enough to take two years of math in an all boys' class. Wilma Wells leaves her bottle of peroxide to Mr. Lantis in case he might want to turn blonde.

Gene Wenning leaves his outside activities to anyone who can survive them. Deloris White leaves the name White and takes the name Hicks. Sally Whitelaw bequeaths her punctuality to Merrilyn Thornburg. Frieda Willey leaves for Purdue to acquire her MRS degree. James Wingate bequeaths his love for baseball to Patti Strasburger. Doug Young unwilling leaves Mary Ann for a year.

The Class of '53 leaves to the Class of '54, GHS and its faculty in a somewhat used condition to honor and obev.

Class Prophecy 1953

Three aged and decrepit members of the class of "53" were sitting back in cool comfort in their own chartered jet-o-tube reminiscing about the good ole days when they hadn't a worry in the world. As students of GHS they led a normal life, but now as busy Television Executies they had not a minute to control and of this year moment were on their way spare, and at this very moment were on their way to fulfill an assignment for their studio "Richards, McGuire & McGuire." Upon graduation George, Don, and Bural founded this studio and are presently establishing a studio at their old home town. As field representatives of this studio we have returned to impost the powers addition to our network.

field representatives of this studio we have returned to inspect the newest addition to our network.

As we started to step off our jet-o-tube, we recognized our stewardess to be none other than Mary Jean Duffey, who informed us that our pilot was Gracie Hellmich, who took over the job vacated by Elmer Swisher, who was now a member of the interplanatory guards. Jeanie also told us that Wilouise Barnes was recently elected president of the ABDA (American Bubble Dancers Association); she took the place of retiring president Dot Stahl.

(American Bubble Dancers Association)); she took the place of retiring president *Dot Stahl*.

While waiting for our baggage to be checked, we noticed a hydrogen powered sign flashing off and on with "Clarke Coffee Corner" inviting us in. While wondering if this *Clark* could be *Ray*, we wandered forth and were greeted by *Coreen* and *Noreen Dikes* who were twin hostesses of the establishment. Our order was taken by *Margaget Sahm*, who Dikes who were twin hostesses of the establishment. Our order was taken by Margaret Sahm, who suggested the "Flinger Special" engineered by Dennis Doerfinger the Chef. After tasting it we decided it had been literally flung together. Margaret also suggested that we catch the floor-show which featured "The Dynamic Duo" alias Lois Huston and Ditte Banister accompanied by Lyndall Meyers who tickled the ivories. Also on the program was Annette

Dixte Banister accompanied by Lynaatt Meyers who tickled the ivories. Also on the program was Annette Oak who increased the temperature sixty degrees by her rendition of "Into the Air Junior Birdman."

Upon realizing that we were being paged, we rushed to pay our check and found the cashier to be Don Eubank who informed us that the president of JOY (Jet-O-Tube) was none other than our former class president. Don Buell.

mer class president, Don Buell.

During the conversation Don mentioned he had become the proud "Papa" of a new fleet of motor

As we hurried to our waiting robar, we brushed by Sally Whitelaw, who had become the Star Strutter of the universally renowned "Futuramic Five." Trailing behind Sally was her publicity agent, Gene McCoy, who we hardly recognized in his sheik chartruese armor and space helmet.

As we leaped into the waiting robar, we were hailed by John Martin, who wanted a spot on our network with his trained "Chickery Chicks." After setting a time for the audition we got our first look at our driver, who turned out to be Gene Wenning. Gene is now holder of the world record for the 6000 kilameter interplanetary dash. Gene also told us that he has been challenged by Mary Ann Scheidler who holds the women's record.

Once on the highway we noticed many unusual changes in the little "Burg." We had recently acquired a rookie baseball training farm owned and operated by former big league star Jim Wingate. In connection with this was a school for bat-boys under the direction of Sam Phillips and Don Rudolph

Looking further we noticed Jo Ann Smith's school for lady wrestlers. Upon inquiring we found her star pupils to be Joyce Gray and Lois Ricke.

Journeying onward we were dazzled by the bright lights of G'Burg and by the FOUR stoplights which blazed forth.

We checked into Nelson's Nifty Nook where we we checked into Nelson's Milty Nook where we were greeted by Jim Cuskaden, proprietor, who escorted us to the elevator where we were whisked away by Betty Ford, the smiling elevator operator. While calling room service we were surprised to hear the voice of Doris Binder, switchboard operator in N N N

in N. N. N.

While waiting for our Rollicking Rawlins Special (prepared by Daniel Dale Rawlins), we were entertained by the "Swinging Six" composed of Hazel Schilling, "canary"; Luella Burkhart, pianist; Ermil Johnson, trumpeter; Shirley Konzelman, saxaphone; Marilyn Jane Stout, clarinetist, and "Lefty" Ryle, song and dance man. At this very moment our drinks were served by Don Voiles who "clued" us that our drinks had been officially tasted and tested by John Doerflinger.

tested by John Doerflinger

Deciding to go to a midnight movie we hurried to the theater where we purchased our tickets from Deciding to go to a midnight movie we hurried to the theater where we purchased our tickets from Norma Jean Butz and were ushered in by Wilma Wells. Until now we were unaware that Charles Curtis Bernard O'Brien was starring in the life story of Rootie Valentisimo filmed in "33 and one-third," and that his co-star was none other than Shirley Ruth Bramblett known now as the Ravising Redhead. We noticed the director of the movie was our old school chum Bill Morrison better known as "Baldy Billy." It seems that our friend was showing his age and was losing a little of his hair. Two eager spectators, at this premier, were Jackie Adams world renowned pretzel twister and her co-hort, Mary Sue Weisner.

While walking slowly back to our hotel we chanced that a bird watcher's convention was in progress. Chief Warrant Officer in charge of all flights was our old friend Fred Holtzlider, who was ably assisted by Huey Fassold. We decided this was "Strictly for the Birds."

Next morning upon awaking we immediately

Next morning upon awaking we immediately rushed to the studio. As we approached the studio, we decided that *Dick Stier* and *Roger Shoemake* had done a supurb job of engineering and construction

We were greeted by the Studio Directors Miller, Montgomery, Moulton and McLaughlin (alias Mar-ilyn, Marlene, Marilyn and Ruth.)

We were then rushed to Studio A where Senators Don "Snort" Kutchback, Jim "Windy" Koors, and Bill "Big Blow" Hellmich were investigating Frieda Willey for the theft of "Ketty Brockers Make Bix" which was needed for the presentation of Marie Blankman's "Homemakers Hour."

While still touring that studio we came upon some of the girls having a snack and found them to be former classmates. First were recognized Alice Marie Baker, director of photography; then Marie Stoneking, secretary to M. M. M. and M. Delores White, make-up artist; and Betty Evans, wardrobe mistress.

After completing our tour of the studio we went After completing our tour of the studio we went to the auditorium where we discovered that Juliann Kessler was giving a benefit performance of "John's Other Wife" for the local hospital. After inquiring we found that the hospital was under the supercision of Nancy Reiger and Mary Gidley.

While hurring beek to the airport to catch our

While hurrying back to the airport to catch our Jet-o-Tube, we thought back to the many good times we had had in good ole GHS. It certainly was a thrill to see our many classmates again and to see that the Class of "53" was here to stay.

PAULA LEVENSTEIN. DAVID DOLES. ANN STIER.

Remember These Teachers of 1953?

Faculty

Eleanor Brooks Nell Cuff
Speech—Hearing Library—English

Robert Cutshall Industrial Arts Mathematics

Roger Finley Agriculture

Martha Frost Art

Virginia Garvey Physical Education

Robert Gossett William Knauth Guidance-History

Social Studies Science

Health & Safety Physical Education Drivers' Training History

Vocational Home Economics

John Lantis Murray Mendenhall Claudia McKinney Barbara McKinney English

R. C. Moeller Mathematics Science

Ben Niles Music

Chalmer Oak Building & Grounds Industrial Arts Geneva Risk Biology Health & Safety

H. E. Sherfey J. C. Spencer
Business Education Mathematics

John Thomson Latin-English

Florence Tities English

History

William Ward Evelyn Webster Business Education





Greensburg Class of '53 Yearbook Advertisements

DAVIS BROS.

MOTORS, INC.

Bulget Loans, Inc.
The Budget Way is the Senation Way

JOHN E. TREMARK 194 North Frenching
Themes 27818

JOHN E. TREMARK 194 North Frenching
Themes 27818

JOHN E. TREMARK 194 North Frenching
Themes 27818

DOERFLINGER'S
Sporting Goods and Music

Sheet Mauric and Supplies
Latest Recordings

Dougratulations to the Class of 1853

Por Quality Printing See

The Greensburg Daily News

Orsensburg, Indiana

Cornensburg, Indiana

The Fashion Shop

Fashions For Very Important People "Crib to College"

For That "Seventeen" Look See Our Famous Brand Names in Sub-Teens and Juniors



A COMPLETE FASHION COVERAGE

Shoes Blouses Dresses

Coats Sweaters Skirts
Suits Hosiery Lingerie



How Many High Schools Were There in Decatur County in 1953?

Burney Panthers — colors: Purple & White Clarksburg Knights — colors: Red & White Greensburg Pirates — colors: Blue & White Jackson Tigers — colors: Black & Gold (Yellow) New Point Little Giants — colors: Blue & White Sandcreek Indians — colors: Columbia Blue & White Sandusky Blackhawks — colors: Black & White St. Paul Blasters — colors: Red & White

Please let us know if you know the words to any of these school songs — or if you have the logo for any of these school mascots. You can write to: Bulletin Editor, Historical Society of Decatur County, P.O. Box 163, Greensburg, IN 47240.

Society's Officers

President:

Vice President:

Recording Secretary:

Corresponding Secretary: Membership Secretary:

Treasurer:

Diana Springmier
David Miers

Charity Mitchell
Susan Blanton

Rheadawn Metz

Debbie Griewe

Board of Directors

Kathryn Bailey

Ed Deiwert

Tom Barker Terri-Ann Blanton

Ginny Garvey

Helen Hamilton

Russell Wilhoit

Society's Agent

William H. Robbins

Museum Director

Diana Springmier

Editors of Bulletin

George Granholt

Email: ggran00@voyager.net

County Historian

Ruth Dorrel, 407 N. Webster

St. Paul, IN 47272

Email: rdorrel@shelbynet.net

County Genealogists

Irene Kreiger, 23184 Pocket Rd.

Batesville, IN 47006

Email: ikrieger@seidata.com

Russell Wilhoit, 328 N. Jackson,

Greensburg, IN 47240

Email: rwilhoit@hsonline.net

11-8	Class of 1953	
L '9	Decatur County Schools & 5th Sunday Musicals	
5 'b	History of Early Education	
£ 'Z	bno tnebizer9 edt mor7 zweN muezuM	
t	School Days, School Days	
	:anssi siili anisii	

Presorted Standard U.S. Postage Paid Greensburg, IV

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY P.O. Box 163
Greensburg, IN 47240

The Bulletin

The Historical Society of Decatur County
Greensburg, Indiana

Volume 8 Issue 4
December 2003
Yes, Virginia. There is a
Santa Claus.

Sun, 1897

- Editorial, New York

A Message from the Society President



This has been a wonderful year for the Historical Society of Decatur County. The four Fifth Sunday

Classical Musicals showcased outstanding local talent. The museum's display of antique children's toys was enjoyed by young and old alike, including the city and county's fourth grade students of spring field trips.

Decatur board who meet monthly and have the day Society's best interests at heart.

I also hope you were able to find time to attend the

able to find time to attend the Old Fashioned Christmas
Open House, Sunday,
December 14 from 1-4 p.m. at the museum. See page 6 & 7 for pictures.

Thanks also to a dedicated

The 2003 Christmas ornament is truly beautiful and available to adorn your families' trees. See page 8 for

more information on obtaining one.

May the true spirit of Christmas bring you a year filled with peace and joy.

This exhibit was followed by a Sports Memorabilia exhibit and open house which brought together former coaches and athletes in the area. All this was possible due to our wonderful volunteers whom the Society honored at a fall volunteer luncheon.

Sincerely,

Diana Springmier

President

A Tribute to Van Batterton

by Pat Smith

Diana Springmier asked if I would write something for The Bulletin about Van Batterton who died December 9, 2003. I readily agreed to do so. After all, it would surely be easy to tell readers how important he was to the Historical Society of Decatur County. But it hasn't been easy at all.

The only way to do it is to write from the heart.

How do you explain to anyone who didn't know Van well that our county would more than likely not have a historical society if not for Van and his wife Vivian? Other historical societies had twice been started before and both had

folded after a few years. It was through Van and Vivian's efforts that the current society kept plodding along, gradually building membership until at one time there were more than 500 members.

Van and Vivian had a talent for making sure that others got involved. In fact, it was the couple who dragged me kicking and screaming into the Historical Society. I resisted, saying I was too busy, but to no avail. They never let up and still today, I thank them for it.

They brought a new and abiding interest into my life just as they did with many others. They could, and did, find all kinds of ways in which everyone could participate in the society.

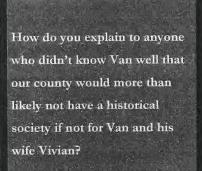
There is no doubt whatsoever

that we would never have gotten a museum started if not for Van and Vivian, much less the marvelous home museum we have now.

Through plenty of cajoling others and elbow grease by both of them, they got the museum

started in the K of P building. Then they kept it going by begging and borrowing anything related to our county's history. They never gave up even when the project seemed a lost cause.

They knew the society would eventually need a real museum and when, in 1994, the opportunity arose through an anonymous local donor to acquire the residence of Mrs. Dorothy Shannon they grabbed it.



Again, they worked to keep it going, got others involved, and talked with people to obtain donations or loans of household furniture and other items. They did whatever was necessary to start the museum on sound footing and keep it going.

Van and Vivian didn't do it alone by any means. They had plenty

of help from dedicated members, but I doubt anyone would argue with the fact that they spearheaded the society into what it is today.

Van became editor of <u>The Bulletin</u> in about 1979 and served in that capacity until 1996. He

was an excellent editor too – and patient. I remember many times when the publication was printed and waiting to be mailed to members with no word having been received about the next meeting, or the meeting date had been changed.

He very patiently pasted the next meeting notice to the front page of every Bulletin. Although I sometimes called him, with great affection I must add, "old bear" because he could appear a bit gruff at times, those of us who knew him weren't fooled by a little gruffness.

In fact, it was just one more of his endearing qualities. We knew him as a gentle man and a gentleman.

Van was president of the society during 1976 – 1978. He and Vivian were also co-chairmen of the U.S. Bicentennial Committee during those years. He was responsible for getting three structures on the Historic Landmarks list. But even when he

wasn't an officer or editor of The Bulletin, Van helped the society and museum in any way and at any time he was asked to do so. Or, if he saw something that needed doing, he simply did it.

I wouldn't even try to count the times I called on Van for advice, called him for information about some obscure local history, or asked for his time. As with his friends all over the county and area, I shall miss Van more than I can express in mere words. The society will miss his guidance and knowledge and experience, and his friends will miss those things as well as his loyal friendship, his sense of humor and his wisdom. Oh my yes, we'll miss him mightily.

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town . . . The Artwork of Greensburg Native Joretta Robbins Headlee

Joretta Robbins Headlee, the daughter of Rosalie and Melvin Robbins, graduated from Greensburg High School in 1969. In 1976, she graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Art Education. However, Joretta did not pursue a career as an art teacher because she and her husband, Ron, elected to adopt a child, and the adoption agency at the time required

that the child would have a "stay-at-home mom."

Consequently,
Joretta started her own
business, Headlee's Art-t'Facts, from her home.
The idea that led to the
series of Santa Clauses
stemmed from her desire
to find a collectable for her
son's second Christmas.
Because she could not find
something that suited her,
and because she became
"intrigued" with the
evolution of Santa Claus'

appearance, Joretta decided to research the history of St. Nick's evolution.

Joretta explains the process of Santa research to Santa depiction this way: "I realized that there were significant influences as to the image of Santa today, and (while) my initial designs showed only a few, they became a marketable collectible series." It did not take long for Joretta's Santa's to become popular items in her D. C. area, and her and her husband's home business has thrived.

Joretta and Ron individually create each Santa. He uses a scroll saw to cut the figurine to shape, and then Joretta does the painting. The work is timeconsuming and meticulous, requiring a great deal of patience and perseverance.

Joretta attributes her success to "hard work and family support." She also notes that her parents were willing to grant her the freedom to examine her varied interests. Additionally, Joretta says, "I had a fantastic education: a high school teacher who gave me artistic freedom that allowed me to grow and enough guidance to keep me focused and objective."

This is how she views her career: t is extremely rewarding after twenty-three years as a professional artist to know that

people enjoy my work. It has become a part of their lives and traditions. I am now selling to second generations. I can't think of a better legacy."

Editors Note: Joretta's work was on display at the Historical Society Museum during the month of December.



2003 WRAP UP

by reed Schuster, Committee Chair

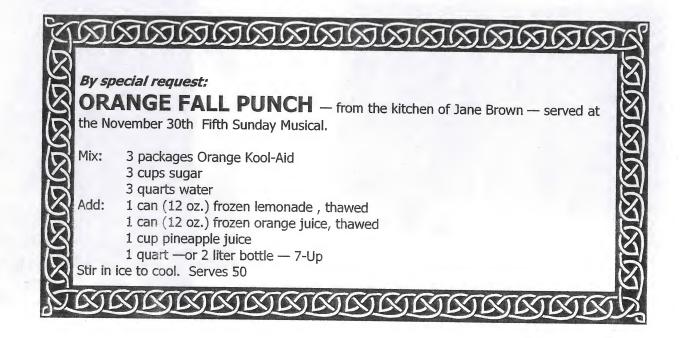
The four "2003 Fifth Sunday Musicals" presented by the Historical Society of Decatur County finished November 30, 2003 with a fan fare. Nancy Porter and several friends were the finale for the season. Enjoyable and professional "Seasonal Sounds" were offered.

The results of the series were impressive! Forty-four local music makers entertained over four hundred guests. The final tally of donations more than doubled the original financial goals of the program — and have added to the Decatur County Museum restoration fund.

The Board of Directors for the Historical Society will offer the "Fifth Sunday Musical Series" biannually, with the next series beginning in 2005. Plans are being made to find local musicians for the 2005 season.

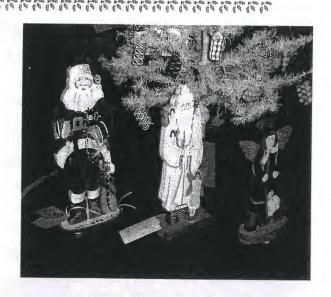
The list of thank-you's are endless from Pat Hicks (harpist) to Nick Parcell and the Greensburg Junior High School Musical Ensemble, to all the helpers behind the scenes, the refreshment people, the sound people, the Volunteers of the Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church, the Board and of course, you!

The audience came from miles away (visitors from England, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Milroy) and of course, from Decatur County. To all of you.....
THANK YOU for your support!



2003 Holiday Open House





Above Left: Santa's Helpers Russell Wilhoit and Charity Mitchell pose in the South Parlor.

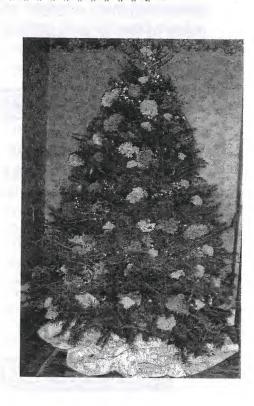
Above Right: More of Joretta Robbins Headlee's art.

** Bottom Right: The tree in the North Parlor.

Bottom Left: Close up of the 1920's village displayed in the North Parlor.

竤 ૱









Top Left: Old-fashioned toy of the man himself — Santa!
Top Right: One of the young students playing sounds of the season.
Bottom Right: Mother Nature provided the atmosphere with a dusting of S-N-O-W.

Bottom Left: Two of our hostesses with the mostess — Helen Hamilton & Ginny Garvey.

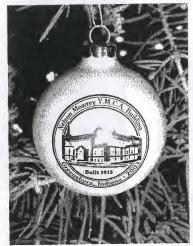




2003 Holiday Ornament

The Historical Society of

Decatur County continues our holiday tradition of commemorating a Decatur County landmark. This year's ornament is pale blue and features a picture of the "old" Nelson Mowrey YMCA Building.



Each ornament is \$8 and a few are still available. They may be purchased at the Lo-Bill Food Store on Main Street or Margaret Tremain Furniture on Lincoln Street.

The His	torical Society of	Decatur Cou	enty
	Video Order S	Form	
I would like to orde	r the following	"Greensbur	g 1937" videos:
VHS copies @ \$1	15 00 each	sul	b-total \$
DVD copies @ \$	20 00 each	SII	h-total \$
DVD copies @ 3	30.00 each	Su	D-total \$
Shi	pping & Hand	lling	\$ <u>5.00</u>
			Φ.
Total	Amount E	nclosed -	\$
Name	14		
Address			-
City	State	ZIP	
Please send check or me	oney order pa	yable to H	istorical Society of
Decatur County to:		Barker Vi	
Decatal Country ser	4417	W. 310 No	orth
		ensburg IN	7/270
	(812)) 663-2381	
	,		

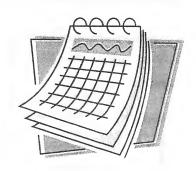
RENEW your membership today!	
Dues are payable January 1 each year! Don't miss out on important member benefits such as receiving The Bulletin . Individual membership is \$10, couples are \$15 and contributing membership is \$30. Please make your checks payable to the Historical Society of Decatur County. Send the check with this form to:	
Historical Society of Decatur County Post Office Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240	
Name(s):	i
Address:	İ
City:	
State, ZIP:	
Individual Membership — \$10	
Couple Membership — \$15	
Contributing Membership — \$30	

REMINDER — MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Historical Society's Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 7th at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg. Dinner will be \$7.50 per person. Please send your check and a note with the name(s) for reservations to:

Historical Society of Decatur County P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

Much business will be discussed and there will be a short program. Don't miss it!



Society's Officers

President: Vice President: Recording Secretary: Corresponding Secretary: Membership Secretary:

Treasurer:

Diana Springmier David Miers Phyllis Doerflinger Susan Blanton Rheadawn Metz Debbie Griewe

Board of Directors

Kathryn Bailey Tom Barker Terri-Ann Blanton

Russell Wilhoit

Society's Agent

William H. Robbins

Museum Director

Diana Springmier

L'9

٤,2

Ed Deiwert Ginny Garvey Helen Hamilton

Editor of Bulletin

George Granholt Email: ggran00@voyager.net

County Historian

Ruth Dorrel, 407 N. Webster St. Paul, IN 47272 Email: rdorrel@shelbynet.net

County Genealogists

Irene Kreiger, 23184 Pocket Rd. Batesville, IN 47006 Email: ikrieger@seidata.com

Russell Wilhoit, 328 N. Jackson, Greensburg, IN 47240

bership Renewal 2003 Ornament, Mem-

> Open House 2003 Holiday

day Wrap Up

5'7 Santa Art & 5th Sun-

> Van Batterton ot studirT A

Society President Open Letter from the

enssi sint abisni

Permit #80

Greensburg, IN U.S. Postage Paid

> Standard Presorted

Greensburg, IN 47240 P. O. Box 163 Historical Society of Decatur County